

**LNG Task Force
Environmental Impacts Committee
Summary of Conference Call on Sept. 20, 2006**

Participants:

Sharon Beazley
Kent Morton
Vince Disk (Hailey and Aldridge for AES)
Joel Baker
Russell Donnelly
Judah Prero
Brad Heavner
Richard Eskin (recorder)

Goal: Develop key questions to be answered in the report and prepare for the Nov. 1 meeting of the Task Force.

Initial suggestions:

Brad

1. The effect of the proposed facility location on recreational and commercial boating and fishing and crabbing in the area.
2. Dredging
3. Analysis of alternatives: Will the natural gas supply be adequate if this facility is not built?

Rich

1. Impacts of dredging – positive and negative including disposal of dredged material.
2. Change in loads during and after construction.
3. Environmental impacts in case of emergency: explore various scenarios.

Russell

1. Dredging
2. Environmental biological inventory and bioassay.
3. Physiological changes (dead zones, impact on hydrology), geophysical impact.

Joel

1. Dredging: what agencies are involved in oversight of dredging and disposal.

Final Questions:

1. **Dredging Assignment: Rich**
 - a. What are the relevant state and federal laws for disposal of dredged material in Maryland? Elder Ghidgerelli, Deputy Administrator of the Wetlands Program will speak to this issue (30 minutes)

- b. What is the available capacity for disposal of the dredged material?
 - c. What are the disposal options (benefits and impacts)?
 - d. What are the geophysical impacts including sediment transport and water quality changes?
 - e. What types and quantities of materials will be released during dredging and construction?
 - f. Possible speakers: MDE, DNR, MPA, ACOE, Harbor Team (esp. MDE rep.)
2. The effect of the proposed facility location on recreational and commercial boating and fishing and crabbing in the area. **Assignment: Russell**
- a. How will the existing patterns of usage for the described activities be disturbed?
 - b. Positive and negative impacts on fishing (e.g., will fishing habitat be created? Will it be accessible?)
 - c. What areas will be denied access for security or safety reasons? What proportion of the area will be affected?
 - d. Are other restoration activities or projects ongoing that could be impacted or benefited by this project?
 - e. What is shown by a comprehensive biodiversity and bioassay study (what living things are there?). Example was a study for Man-of-War Shoals that Russell will provide to Rich for posting. Russell will also look at Resource Report # 3 (Vegetation and Wildlife) to determine what is missing.
 - f. Possible speakers: Commercial or sport fishing industry, Eliza Smith (Harbor Keeper), Natural Fishing Alliance, Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club, DNR.
3. Alternatives Analysis **Assignment: Brad**
- a. How necessary is the increased gas supply to Maryland's needs?
 - b. What are the benefits of the proposal to the State of Maryland?
 - c. How much of the supply is for Maryland and how much for the "Northeast?"
 - d. What is the impact of using natural gas for energy vs coals or oil powered plants with respect to air emissions and air quality?
 - e. Possible speakers: Independent energy consultant/analysis, Constellation, MEA, MDE.
4. What are the changes in land-based pollution loads resulting from the project construction and operation?

Committee Notes:

- 1. The use of the resource reports will for information does not imply acceptance of any conclusions. Data from other sources is also relevant to the Task Force considerations.

2. In the report preamble it will be noted that there are concerns regarding the environmental impacts of the pipeline and although the Task Force needed to focus on Sparrows Point additional investigation related to the pipeline may be appropriate.
3. The Task Force determined that it must focus on the Sparrows Point aspect of the LNG, but also noted that there could be impacts from the pipeline that will extend through Baltimore County. Although the Environmental Impacts Committee cannot spend time on pipeline-related issues, it recommends to the Task Force that the Task Force Report note the potential for such impacts, and that relevant sections on pipeline environmental impacts in existing documents should be referenced or included in the Task Force Report where there is consensus that the sections are acceptable to the full Task Force.

Next Steps

Speakers list by Wed. Sept. 27.

Speaker Recommendations (received subsequently)

From Russell Donnelly: Dave Goshorn, DNR to speak on Harbor Water Quality and Dr. Dan Fisher, University of Maryland to speak on water and sediment toxicity.

From Richard Eskin: Elder Ghidgerelli, Deputy Administrator of the Wetlands Program to speak on dredging laws and requirements.